



MONTEREY NEWS

APRIL 1993



TOWN NEWS

Monterey's Democratic party caucus last month was the scene of an unexpected conflict. When the time came to nominate a candidate for the office of Selectman, the name of incumbent, Bill Bohn, a registered Democrat was put forth by the nominating committee. Bob Gauthier then nominated Stefan Grotz. Party chairman Georgiana O'Connell declared that the Grotz nomination was invalid because Mr. Grotz is a registered independent. She stated that the party was not permitted to nominate a candidate without a Democratic affiliation for any office for which a Democrat wanted to run. The caucus refused to accept Mr. Bohn's nomination, and no nomination for Selectman was made.

Mrs. O'Connell later explained that her action had been based on a ruling made about thirty years ago by former Democratic party chairman Robert Donelan. A number of caucus attendees were disgruntled, however, claiming that there had been no written rules available to consult. They were also unhappy that the

vote in which Mr. Bohn's nomination was rejected should have been taken by secret ballot, rather than by a show of hands.

Although the Democrats will not have a nominee, both Stefan Grotz and Bill Bohn have obtained the necessary signatures and both names will appear on the ballot as candidates for Selectman at town meeting.

The above-mentioned controversy illustrated what several people believe is a problem with the system of partisan caucuses for nominating officials of town government. Party politics would seem to have little or no place in town government, because an official's party affiliation, or lack thereof, has absolutely no bearing on his or her work for Monterey. Further, there are no more Monterey voters registered as independents than as Republicans or Democrats, and independents are not permitted to vote at partisan caucuses. Therefore, voters at town meeting will be asked to replace the current system of party caucuses with a town caucus to nominate candidates for town office. In a town caucus, all potential candidates will



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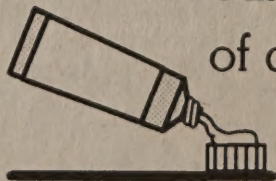
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have the opportunity to explain their platforms and give their qualifications in a single forum, and all interested voters, regardless of party affiliation, will have a chance to participate in selecting candidates.

Muriel Lazzarini, President of the Lake Garfield Association, delivered to the Board a proposed article for the warrant of the annual town meeting. The article seeks to raise the sum of \$1500 to help defray the cost of the one-day follow-up survey of Lake Garfield done on September 10, 1992. (For more information on the results of this survey, see *Lake Garfield Association*, elsewhere in this issue.) In addition, there was discussion of a proposed bylaw governing water skiing on Lake Garfield. Richard Murray, Director of the Massachusetts Environmental Police, has been scheduled to inspect the Lake Garfield water skiing area.

The Selectmen met with Finance Committee members Nick Wool, Greta Cherneff and Jack Ryder, and committee secretary Kim Hines to discuss the request of Tree Warden Roger Tryon that highway department equipment and assistance be made available to the Tree Warden both for emergencies and for some non-emergency situations such as stump removal. Mr. Tryon had previously reported to the Finance Committee that without the help of the highway department for emergencies, the Tree Warden's budget would be insufficient. He explained that if he has to rent his own equipment to the town, it would cost the town at least an additional \$2000 a year, noting that it is in the town's best interests to use its own machinery. The Selectmen agreed to work on an arrangement whereby the highway department would assist during emergencies at no cost to the Tree Warden's account.

The Selectmen announced that an agreement has been signed with the Visiting Nurse Association of the Berkshires to provide community health services for the period of July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994.

The Selectmen discussed speed zoning on various town roads. They will ask the district highway engineer and the police chief to assess the advisability of setting speed zones on several roads, including Route 23, New Marlboro Road, Blue Hill Road, River Road, Route 57 and Tyringham Road.

During the March 15 meeting, the Selectmen met with Highway Superintendent Don Amstead to review the highway department's response to the blizzard of March 13 and 14. The Board agreed that the department's performance had been outstanding. Mr. Amstead credited the department's emergency preparedness. He suggested that during future emergencies, a police cruiser and officer be present at a command post at all times. (For more information on Monterey's response to the blizzard, see *Storm of the Century*, elsewhere in this issue.)

The Selectmen have been advised by the district highway director that the entire length of Route 23 is eligible for resurfacing, where needed, by the Massachusetts Highway Department in 1994 under the Federal Aid Surface Transportation Program to upgrade local infrastructure. MHD will work with Highway Superintendent Don Amstead to prepare the necessary contracts to define and delineate the work; MHD will advertise and oversee the work under these contracts at no cost to the town.

The following Board of Selectmen permit was issued: General Business Permit to Gould Farm, for the operation of the Roadside Store on Main Road, submitted by Amy Goldfarb and Patricia Schoonmaker.

— Maggie Leonard

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TOWN MEETING SET FOR MAY 1

Monterey's annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the firehouse. Among the issues to be deliberated and voted on are new boating and safety regulations for Lake Garfield and substituting a town caucus for the current system of partisan caucuses. All voters are urged to attend and make their voices heard.

SUMMER DISPOSAL AREA HOURS

Summer hours for the Monterey Disposal Area will begin on Sunday, April 4. The schedule is as follows:

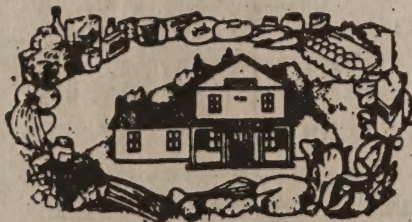
SUNDAY: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

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Stickers for authorized users' vehicles may be obtained at the town hall on Wednesdays from noon-4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon.

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COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

The weather outside was frightful, but inside at the community dinner on March 10, there were good friends, good food and a delightful evening of poets and poetry.

Melissa Warner was in charge. She decorated with lines of green down the tables as a sign that perhaps spring was coming. Poets Eleanor Kimberley, MaryKate Jordan and Nathan Smith read selections of their poetry, providing a rare time of peace and reflection for the forty or so people who attended.

The next community dinner will be held on April 14, with Marge and Gerry McMahon in charge. For details about the program, see the article below.

— Gige O'Connell

LOCAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

On April 14, the community dinner program will focus on the value of agriculture in Monterey and how we might insure its future. The discussion will be lead by Bonner McAllester, Ellen Pearson and Cathy Roth, who, along with David McAllester, took part in a study group last fall to consider the contributions made by local agriculture to our lives and our communities.

Our group was sponsored by UMASS Cooperative Extension with financial assistance from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. Over a period of six weeks, fifteen farmers, conservationists, business people and concerned citizens discussed Wendell Berry and Aldo Leopold; contributed our own art, music and poetry; expressed strong and differing opinions, agonized and socialized and ended up with a spirited consensus.

Bonner McAllester developed our thoughts into an pamphlet, *Toward and Agricultural Ethic*, which was illustrated by Victoria Reed. Free copies of the pamphlet are available at the Monterey General Store.

Several members of the original study group have decided to take this galvanizing process on the road. We would like to subject our ideas to debate and consider them as a basis for local action. We invite all who are concerned about Monterey agriculture and the contribution it makes to the integrity and vitality of our community to join us on April 14.

— Cathy Roth and Ellen Pearson

STORM OF THE CENTURY

The snowstorm of March 13 and 14 has been called the storm of the century. I'm sure that most residents of Monterey find that characterization somewhat overblown, but all should agree that this storm was a very real threat to our peace of mind, if not to our mortal souls. Much of Monterey's successful "weathering" of the storm can be credited to the preparedness of the town highway crew, as directed by Don Amstead and the thoroughness of emergency preparation provided by our Fire Chief, Ray Tryon.

Don had all the highway equipment ready to go and was prepared to use hired machinery if necessary. Ray and the members of the Fire Company had a plan to use the fire station as an emergency center, where all the town's emergency needs could be accessed by radio communication. Residents living in the remoter parts of town were called to warn them that they could be isolated by the storm. The Monterey Police were made a part of the plan and worked closely with the crew at the fire station. The utility companies were contacted and directed to inform the emergency center if they came into Monterey. They were assured that the town would work with them to restore lost service. (This did occur, and the coordination was superb!) Maynard Forbes was asked to lay in a supply of food at the firehouse, the radios were checked out, the key personnel moved in, and the emergency center came to life.

At 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, the Selectmen declared a state of emergency, which allowed the use of snowmobiles on the highways. The town snow plows were soon augmented by hired equipment, and the work of pushing back the snow continued through the night. The tree warden was involved too, because we had to clear away about ten trees during the storm. Ray reported to the Selectmen that as of 7:30 on Sunday morning, all town roads were open except for Lovers Lane, which was in the process of having a tree removed. To his knowledge, there was only one power loss, and that one had lasted less than two hours.

Monterey had many heroes that weekend. You'd have to put Don and Ray near the head of the list, but the entire highway crew worked long and hard hours. There were many people who backed them up when they had to stop. They all deserve our thanks and our praise. Perhaps we don't equate this one with some of the storms of our memory because of the talents of these dedicated people.

— Peter Brown

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Perhaps the snow will be melting by the time you read this, and you may be able to see snowdrops and crocuses. We hope that spring will be well-established in time for our Second Annual Family Fun Day on April 25, from noon-4:00 p.m. at the Eden Hill Recreation Center in Stockbridge. For a donation of \$5 per family, families will be able to use the indoor swimming pool, hike, fly kites, take hayrides, participate in arts and crafts and games, hear David Grover and watch a puppet show. The event will be held rain or shine. Plan to bring a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon. Refreshments will be available.

Jodi Tuller, Director of Nursing at CHP, wants families to know that the Visiting Nurses of the Berkshires on Bridge Street, Great Barrington sponsor free immunization clinics for local families on the fourth Monday of each month, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information, please call 528-0130.

The South Berkshire Ambulance Squad is sponsoring Community CPR classes. For more information, please call 528-3632 or 528-0790 and ask for Charles Spiradowski.

We are pleased to announce that beginning April 1, CHP, in conjunction with Fairview Hospital and the American Red Cross, will sponsor a car seat rental program. New car seats for toddlers can be rented for \$5 for four months, with a \$10 deposit. For more information, please call Claudette at CHP, 528-9311. Infant car seats can be rented at Fairview Hospital (528-0790).

We thank the staff at Bryant School for the donation of a kitchen set for one of our playgroups. We are seeking a child-sized table and chairs set and a Fisher Price cash register, also for our playgroups. Please call Wendy Jensen at 528-4007 if you can donate either of these items.

We welcome as Parent-to-Parent volunteers Melissa Baker, Cathi-lee Delorto, Ellen O'Grady and Wendy Roig. We are planning a summer training program also, so if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Claudette at CHP, 528-9311.

— Claudette Callahan

LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION

On September 10, 1992, limnologist Dr. K. Wagner performed a one-day survey as part of the recommended follow-up on the status of Lake Garfield. Such a survey tells us how well the lake and its watershed are functioning together as a complete system on a given day. When we compare surveys from different years, we can identify trends that help us decide on actions to take. Analyses and recommendations are part of the survey report. Because most members of our community seem to be opposed to chemical interference, we specifically requested non-chemical management options. Measurements of the following were taken: water quality, plant growth, microscopic algae and plankton, land features and land use considerations that impact upon the lake.

Although a lake has a natural life span which ends with its conversion into meadow, the process is artificially speeded up by the introduction of nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates, which encourage plant and algae growth. We specifically asked for information on the status of these chemicals in 1992, as compared to earlier surveys. We asked for additional information on water plants, which were abundant in the small lake area and at the eastern end of the lake.

The survey showed that water quality is still acceptable for the designated uses of the lake, but there are areas of concern regarding nutrients. Phosphorus levels at the surface were among the higher levels recorded. Phosphate entry into the lake needs to be reduced.

Drawdown has helped limit some nuisance plants, such as the floating weed milfoil, but it cannot control seed-bearing weeds such as pondweed, abundant in the small lake area.

Overall algal density was moderate to low, but the plankton which feed on the algae were low in density and small in size, indicating predation pressure on them by panfish such as sunfish and perch, and possibly also by stocked trout. This imbalance could knock out one of the natural checks that help prevent algae overgrowth.

The deoxygenated area in the deepest 25% of the lake limits fish habitat. Because of the low oxygen levels, release of stored phosphorus from the muck at the bottom is possible, but has probably not yet begun.

Land use around the lake, specifically septic systems in areas of multiple houses, high water table or rocky ground, is a cause for concern.

Dr. Wagner made a number of recommendations:

1. Work to limit nutrient inflow into the lake. Control runoff and improve the quality of ground water flow. The report outlined means of maximizing the efficiency of septic systems, such as more frequent pumping and limiting cleaning agents that introduce phosphates into the ground. Changes are recommended in lawn care: no fertilizing unless the ground has been tested and shows a need for chemical additions. "The same thing that makes a lawn green makes the lake green." The report suggested creating a buffer zone of bushy plants, not grass, around the edge of the lake.

2. Continue the drawdown; do a maximum drawdown every other year.

3. Consider benthic (bottom) barriers to prevent seeding of weeds and shoreline raking to control nuisance weeds. Benthic barriers are carpets of synthetic material that can be placed over a weed bed in the spring and removed in summer to kill emerging weeds and prevent regrowth.

4. Educate watershed residents about the impact of residential practices on water quality and the lake in general.

5. Examine and strengthen local ordinances to protect the lake.

6. Gather information on the fish community.

7. Continue to monitor dissolved oxygen and nutrients in the lake. Consider participation in a citizen water monitoring program to help control expense. (We will attend the UMASS Water Watch Partnership meetings on citizen monitoring.)

The Monterey Board of Selectmen has been given a copy of the report. Another copy will be placed in the Monterey Library. We believe the report is well done. It suggests workable management techniques for maintaining a healthy balance in and around Lake Garfield. To maximize the benefits of having this report done and follow through on a comprehensive plan of water quality maintenance, we need help. Please consider volunteering to work on one of the recommendations. For more information, call President Muriel Lazzarini at 528-5796 or Corresponding Secretary David McAllester at 528-1847.

— Patricia Edelstein



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Time Dollars is a system of community service and sharing in which no money changes hands. Members of a community earn time dollars (or service credits) for the time they spend helping others. Each hour of volunteer work earns one hour's credit that can be used to buy an hour's worth of service.

The time of all volunteers has equal worth — one time dollar is earned for each hour of donated service, regardless of the nature of the work. Time dollars can be used by the people who earn them, immediately, or saved for the future. Time dollars can be donated to a friend or relative. Or, they can be donated to the program's bank, so that members with the greatest needs get the help they require.

A coordinator matches volunteers with recipients and records time dollars earned and spent. Each person joining the program fills out an application listing the services he or she can provide. Also listed are one's needs (although a listing of needs will not be as comprehensive as the service listing, because many needs are sudden or one-time requests).

Time Dollar programs have been successful in many localities. The earliest programs began in Missouri and Washington in 1985. Two years later, \$12 million in grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation expanded programs in Miami, Boston and San Francisco. Now, there are more than 80 programs nationwide. Missouri and Michigan have state-wide Time Dollar programs. Miami has more than 900 volunteers who clock 6,000 hours of work credit each month in the poor sections of the city. When Hurricane Andrew devastated south Florida last summer, the Miami program sent 400 Time Dollar volunteers to Homestead to help out. In Brooklyn, there is a program called Elderplan, in which members pay 1/4 of their premiums with Time Dollars.

A Time Dollar program is flexible. It can be tailored to the needs of the community. The mixes and matches of services and needs are endless. On Sunday, May 2, at 3:00 p.m., the Monterey Round Table will meet in the church basement to further explore the Time Dollar idea. We will also present a video and discussion about Time Dollars at the community dinner on May 12. Please join us at either or both of these times to see how this exciting community plan might work for Monterey.

— Laurel Tewes

MONTEREY PIPELINE SURVEY

It is fairly obvious that our legislators and president are in their current positions due to the heavy support of the Monterey Democrats. "As Monterey goes, so goes the nation," says the pundit. At his inauguration, President Clinton went so far as to expressly inform Gige O'Connell (and possibly some others) that he particularly wanted to hear from her and, of course, Monterey. It's so nice to be recognized. We hastened to comply, doing what good citizens do. We (Barbara Swann, Muriel Lazzarini and yours truly, to be precise) formed a committee. We decided to poll Monterey Democrats on important national issues on a quarterly basis. We felt it was a way to express to our president and legislators our views on their programs.

Our first Pipeline Survey focused on Mr. Clinton's economic program, as outlined in his State of the Union address. We asked respondents to indicate their reactions to plans for various tax and fee increases as well as spending cutbacks and increases, by selecting for each item *Goes Too Far* (GTF), *Not Far Enough* (NFE), *Just About Right* (JAR) and *Need More Information* (NMI). There were 15 questions, some with sub-categories, plus an invitation to write in comments about other areas of concern.

We distributed the survey at the Democratic caucus. Although more than 30 people attended, most did not stay long enough to get or hear about the survey, for which we are sorry. We did get eleven responses, and some of the more interesting results are as follows:

The only unanimous response was JAR for raising the top corporate tax rate to 36%. Nine NFE and two JAR for the Brady bill expresses nicely where Monterey stands on gun control. Nine JAR and two NFE for the energy tax proposal. Ditto for raising income tax rates to 36% on the wealthy. Nine JAR and two NMI for a pay freeze on federal workers followed by raises of less than the rate of inflation. Nine JAR and two NMI on a national service program and on extension of unemployment compensation. Eight JAR and three NFE on denying corporate deductions for lobbying, club dues and executive pay over \$1 million. Seven JAR, two NFE and two NMI on raising grazing fees on federal lands. Five JAR, five NFE and one NMI on campaign finance reform. The response was overwhelmingly in support of the president's programs.

Five people included comments, which follow:

1. Support single payer health plan (rather than managed competition), similar in administration to

social security.

2. On health care, we should do anything and everything we can to prevent the adoption of a system based on managed competition. We need to advocate something very like the Canadian system. Anything less won't fix the problem. This will likely be the only chance in our lifetimes to make changes, so we'd better get it right!

3. Perot was right on this one. I urge a gasoline tax, as well as a BTU tax, with proceeds going to public transportation. Tax credits for "employment miles" or a sliding scale could ease initial hardship. We need to get in line with the rest of the world on gas guzzling.

4. Line item veto and tax credit for parents education children (*sic*) who have certain income level.

5. Bank by bank investigation of use of deposited funds in the S&L debacle and some convictions.

The results of our survey will be forwarded to our legislators and the White House. It's been fun doing this, and we hope that next time we'll have a larger response.

— Joyce Scheffey



MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met on March 3. Our theme was Irish Stew, and the meeting included a variety St. Patrick's Day program, Irish stew and other appropriate refreshments.

Mary Wallace, Chairman of Women's Activities, gave a list of state granges which must be completed by May 29. The Grange will have an exhibit at the Monterey Post Office for Grange Week, April 18-25. Monterey Grange #291 will take part in Berkshire South Pomona #25 on April 17 at the Sheffield Grange #224.

The Grange met again on March 17 for a Women's Activities program. Dairy products were featured as refreshments.

— Mary Wallace

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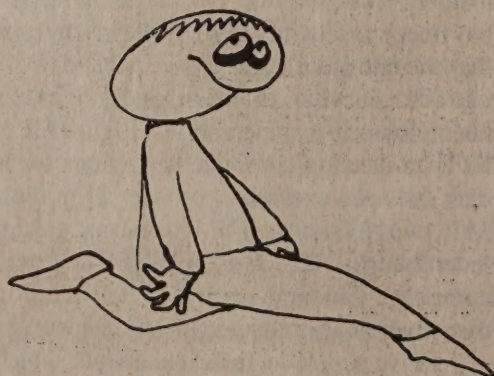
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THE BIDWELL HOUSE

On Saturday, March 27, The Bidwell House hosted another day-long workshop for six area Girl Scout troops. The day featured programs by four local artists, who graciously donated their time and talents. In the morning, the girls made clay pots with Michael Marcus of Joyous Spring Pottery. Donna Drew, a public school art teacher, showed the girls examples of early American folk portraiture and then taught a class in which the girls drew self-portraits. After lunch, Joe Baker led a lively session on American folk songs and dances, and Mary Andreyco told early folk tales. In addition to the four artists who led the workshops, The Bidwell House thanks everyone who donated supplies for the day, including Sheffield Pottery, Appalachian Press, Jane Burke of Flying Cloud, Lenny Weber and Edith Wilson.

On April 29, docent training for the summer-fall season begins. Docents are volunteers who conduct tours of the house. We have six people signed up for training, and would love to have more. Docent training consists of four sessions in which you will learn about the history of Monterey, the house and the Bidwell family. In addition, we will teach techniques on giving tours and have practice sessions. We ask for a commitment of two weekend days (ten hours) a month during our season from June through mid-October. We also need docents who can work during the week for special events. If you would like more information, please call 528-6888. We have many exciting plans for this season. Come be a part of it!

— Lisa Simpson



MONTEREY WILDLIFE SURVEY

Birds: Mike and Maureen Banner on Griswold Road have been seeing turkeys, up to 22 at a time in their yard; lately some of the males have been displaying (showing off their tail feathers enticingly). Dale Duryea saw many turkeys just before the mid-March storm, moving into cover; one hapless turkey was seen in the blizzard by Art Hasted. Art was plowing the road near Swann Lodge, and a turkey in the road flew up. When it got above the bank, the wind caught it and piled it in a heap of utter disarray. It got itself together and flew up again, sailing off before the wind like a rocket. Art also saw some turkeys down near Stevens Lake, eating sumac berries. The males seem to be rounding up their harems for a renewal of family life. Conrad Ohman saw a big flock eating sumac berries across from his house, and many others around the periphery of Beartown Forest and at Woodburn Farm.

Peter Murkett reports, "close by, and clear as a clock chime, the call of a saw-whet owl, Saturday evening, about 8:00 o'clock, February 27. First of the season."

Bill Griffith saw a flock of geese at dusk on February 22, heading north in the vicinity of Leaside Lodge. Bonner McAllester saw a kingfisher with a fish, in mid-February and another in Tyngham on March 4. Ted Warner saw a flock of robins in South Egremont in early March, and Alice and Joel Schick report a mockingbird here in Monterey on March 3. Alice also saw a goshawk riding the thermals on March 11. Purple finches were seen on March 4 in West Otis by Eleanor Kimberley and on March 7 at Dowd Corner by Susan McAllester. Chickadees were singing their spring song at the Olds' on Blue Hill Road, just before the blizzard. Goldfinches are reported in small flocks by several people.

Mammals: Coyotes have caught several cats in the Route 23/New Marlboro Road area. The Grotzes saw their cat stand off a coyote right behind their house, but a while later, it apparently was not so successful. (Combined with the threat of rabies and the always-present dangers of cars, coyotes make a compelling case for keeping cats indoors.)

Conrad Ohman saw otter tracks circling right around the Beartown Forest headquarters; Art Hasted saw some along the brook by Harmon Road. Dale Duryea saw mink tracks along the Konkapot right in the center of town. He climbed down to look and saw the mink itself under the bridge. Dale also reports

bobcat tracks near Swann Lodge. The Banners have been seeing a very handsome fox crossing their yard and signs of a den not very far away. A raccoon was reported coming after cars on Blue Hill Road. The behavior was unusual enough to make Dale Duryea suspect rabies, but when he arrived on the scene, the raccoon was no longer there.

— David P. McAllester

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SONNET TO SNAGGLES

*Dear Pup — who often, though small, knew all the
score,
Who loved to lead the way through woods and
brush,
Who found in clouds a roof, in hedge a door,
You who knew sounds of owls and bees, and thrush —
Nothing seems joyful on these first frail days
With trees spun new in weblike frocks for spring,
Nothing seems bright now, in this grey-green maze
Where earth turns questing, to the dawn's wild ring.
Only on thing, between this grey, this green,
Comes to caress my troubled brow to rest,
A tiny primrose for the words unseen
Carved high, upon an old tree's scraggly breast.
Dear Pup — now that you're gone, and never were
mine,
I felt that I must send you this short line.*

— Sue Moody

MARCH 4-8, 1993

*We are a nation of diverse cultures,
Archaic and outdated moral taboos,
Quick to put others into neat little packages.
I think we're less than halfway there.*

*Now comes the power struggle over the potato.
My crystal ball is getting dark.
All those zeroes pop up on the odometer
And it's got to mean something.*

*I saw the sun coming out in different colors,
Disappear into the sands of somewhere,
Waiting in black silence for spring.
I was not hallucinating.*

— D.R. Strange



*No longer able
To phrase my thoughts
In prose
I write poems —
Blabbering poems
And get Fs in English.*

*My teacher no longer
understands my poetry.
Who does?*

*Not me —
That's for sure.
I write what's
In my head.
And I don't
understand
that.*

— Morgan Schick

DREAM WORLD CATCH IT IF YOU CAN

*"Such a dream!" my husband said.
"What did you eat before going to bed?"
"Sauces and ice cream," I replied.
"That'll do it," my husband sighed.*

*The pink stucco building was very flat
And I was decked out in my sun helmet hat.
African ostriches paced to and fro
Guarding the building and also for show.
They didn't run for they'd look silly.
They just slowly paced for the ground was hilly.
The cockatoo king was about to receive
When he was told quietly he must leave.
He sang, "I'm king of the cockatoos.
I will leave for I've nothing to lose.
I am a king without a crown.
My hat is flat and it is brown.
When my minions are on parade,
I give them glasses of pink lemonade.
If they revolt or try an assault,
I give them each a chocolate malt."*

*And that is the total that I recall.
Can you make any sense of it at all?*

— Nancy Adams





THE RIGHTS OF MICE

All my life, I have lived closely with mice, one way or another, and our relationship has been a stable one, or at least consistent. That is, I have consistently admired mice (and they have consistently ignored me). There have been times when my admiration was tinged with annoyance (mouse in the cupboard, making a mess), or with sorrow (orphaned baby mouse dies despite all efforts with eye-dropped and warm milk). Still, I consistently like mice, find them to be lovely to look at and fascinating to watch.

A mouse is so much smaller than I am that there really is no question as to who could be boss over whom if the need arose. But, my need to boss mice rarely crops up, so I ignore this imbalance and pretend that mice and I are some kind of equals in someone's eyes. Whose eyes? I don't know — maybe mine. When I am indulging myself in admiration of another creature, I don't like to remember that one of us is the boss, that we don't have equal rights.

I see deer mice in the bird feeder at night. They pop in there, braving exposure to the bright light of the kitchen window, and fill up on bird seed. I know that they love seeds but that they are really omnivorous and

eat many insects, too: beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, crickets, sowbugs and flies. They also like snails, spiders, slugs and centipedes, not to mention the carcasses of small birds and mammals that die or are left by predators. From my own experience, I can tell you that mice like canned peaches, pickles, potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, dry beans, winter squash, apples, crackers, goat grain and green plastic maple sap tubing.

A deer mouse is a pretty thing, with reddish brown to almost grey upper parts, snowy white under, and a long, bi-colored tail (dark above, pale below). It has long whiskers, bright, liquid eyes and expressive ears. A deer mouse can move just the very edge of its ear if it wishes, in a rippling motion, or it can swivel its ear about, or flatten it shut. There are fifteen kinds of deer mice, also called white-footed mice, in North America, and the main differences among them are the ways in which they have adapted to life in different places.

Our local deer mouse is a woods-dweller and is quite at home in the trees. It often nests in a bird's nest, which it roofs over with grasses, shredded bark, fur or fabric. The doorway has a removable plug of nesting material.

A deer mouse soon messes up its nest and moves on to another. A female will leave her first litter of the season when the babies are ready for independence and move to a clean nest for the second litter. She may have four or five litters in a year and rotate among three different nests. By the time she gets back to the first one, the babies are gone and the nest has dried and aired out.

I have read several accounts of singing mice, referring to a sound I have never heard, despite my long life among mice. Deer mice are said to give a lovely trilling song. One man, mistook the mouse for his pet canary until he traced the sound to a closet. "I procured a light and found it to be a *mouse* ! He had filled an overshoe from a basket of popcorn which had been popped and placed in the closet in the morning. Whether this rare collection of food inspired him with song, I know not, but I had not the heart to disturb his corn, hoping to hear from him again. Last night his song renewed. I approached him with a subdued light and with great caution, and had the pleasure of seeing him sitting among his corn singing his beautiful solo. I observed him without interruption for ten minutes, not over four feet from him. His song was not a *chirp*, but a continuous song of musical tone, a kind of *to-wit-to-wee-woo-woo-wee-woo* quite varied in pitch. . . . If his marvelous voice gives him the pre-eminence in

mousedom which he deserves, by the aid of natural selection, I shall presently have a chorus of mice.”
(W.O. Hiskey in *The American Naturalist*, May, 1871)

Mice live about two years in the wild, and as long as six or eight in captivity. I live in the house, for the most part, though not exactly in captivity. So far, I've been around for nearly 44 years. I can sing, maybe not like a canary, and I like many of the same foods (not all of them) than mice like. I don't know why, but I want

myself and deer mice to have equal rights — to bird seed, to a normal life expectancy, to admiration and respect for our beauty and our singing, to the pursuit of happiness in mouse or person terms. Since I am the big boss in my house, I can bestow these rights, but it makes me sorry to think that I can also take them away. Maybe this is why I can't quite sing like a canary.

— Bonner J. McAllester



There once was a man from Nantucket,
Who kept all his cash in a bucket.

But his daughter named Nan
Ran away with a man
And as for the bucket, Nantucket.

—(Princeton Tiger)

But he followed the pair to Pawtucket,
That man and the girl with the bucket.
And he said to the man,
He was welcome to Nan,
But as for the bucket, Pawtucket.

—(Chicago Tribune)



WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

The Grotz Family

Stephanie Grotz grew up in Lyndonville, Vermont, where her family has farmed for several generations, and graduated from the Lyndon Institute, a preparatory school there. Family connections and winter sports frequently draw the Grotzes back to Vermont.

Stefan's father, Paul, was an architect in Stuttgart, Germany, who often spent time in New York. There, he met Stefan's mother, Dorothy, a gifted artist and linguist with a keen interest in German literature. After their marriage, they traveled back and forth between Germany and the United States, but by 1938, seeing the course Germany was setting, decided to make their home in New York.



The Grotzes: Michelle, Stephanie, Natasha, Stefan

Stefan's childhood was spent in Greenwich Village. From an early age, he eagerly pursued all sports, in school and out. This interest has stayed with him for life. "Everything I learned in sports is what I am today. I revere the spirit of the Olympic Games in their purest form."

He attended the Little Red Schoolhouse and Elizabeth Irwin High School in New York City. He went on to Cornell, where he began as a math and physics major, but ended up in English literature, with honors. His first job was on the bottom rung of the editorial ladder at *Time* magazine. Then he worked for *American Heritage*, but interrupted his time there for military service in the RFA Six Months Program for basic training and advanced medical training. *American Heritage* proposed an editorial job if he would get an MA, so his next step was to enroll at the University of California at Berkeley.

Stefan received his MA and was granted entrance into the PhD program, but this was Berkeley in 1963, the storm center of student rebellion against the establishment, political and academic. Stefan's hope for undisturbed study could not square with his conscience, and he became president of the English Graduate Student Association on a platform of academic reform. The student confrontation with the Berkeley Board of Regents is history. Hundreds of students were arrested, but their protests were heard, and education across the country has been more responsive to student voices ever since.

When the point has been made, Stefan went back to his books, but they no longer held the compelling interest of the days before the student revolution. Stefan returned to New York, but instead of going back to *American Heritage*, he became a literary agent. Still unsatisfied, he decided to leave the city and work with his hands. He had been in the Berkshires as a child, and it seemed just the place to find the time and space he needed.

He worked for a mason, he painted houses, and he met Stephanie Morse, whose parents had come to Monterey to operate the farming aspect of Gould Farm. Stephanie was finishing her studies at the Lyndon Institute, but was often down here visiting her parents. Soon, she was seeing more of Stefan.

Early one morning, in the apartment he was renting at Lake Buel, Stefan came to the decision that set the pattern for his life. He would take a new direction and study law, and, if Stephanie was willing, they would get married. She was, and they did. Stefan took a job at Grants in Great Barrington and commuted

to night classes in law in Springfield. Stephanie began working at Brookbend in Monterey to help support the new venture.

In 1969, Michelle was born, and in 1971, Stefan began working for the County Extension Service. The family moved into their present house in 1972, and that was also the year Natasha arrived. Four years later, Stefan graduated from law school and passed the bar exam. The next year, Stefan began his law practice, full time. Hardly anyone outside the family knew he had been living a double life until he hung out his shingle.

The next year, Stefan added community service to his obligations. He became a selectman, serving three consecutive terms from 1977-1986. Stephanie was able to enroll at Berkshire Community College when the children were small, because they had built-in baby sitters, a succession of amiable renters in their top-floor apartment. She did so well that she was able to take all her credits with her when she transferred to Williams College. There, she started a double major in English and environmental studies. "I don't remember having a class I didn't love!" But the long commute was a problem, and as the girls got older, they needed to be driven to Browning, school events and Butternut, so Stephanie took an indefinite leave from her studies.

In Monterey, she was a Brownie leader, taught arts and crafts, served as treasurer of the PTA, and organized parties, fund raisers and field trips. She was the Monterey reporter for *The Record*, a weekly newspaper that served Monterey, Otis and Sandisfield. When that paper folded, she began writing her popular *Personal Notes* column for the *Monterey News*. She

also worked part time at the Monterey General Store until 1991.

The two girls were honor students in the local schools, and Michelle graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1990. She spent over two years in a New York law office, and last fall began graduate work in a pre-medical program in Ithaca. Now, she has taken time out for an alternative medical option in midwifery at Maternidad La Luz in El Paso, Texas. This program lasts six months; in the fall, she will decide whether to continue in this direction, go on to medical school, or, perhaps, go to law school.

Natasha is the most famous skier in this snow-loving family. Starting at age nine, she has competed at all levels, including the U.S. Junior Olympics, Junior Nationals, Nor-AMS and U.S. Nationals. Accepted on an early decision at Dartmouth College, she deferred matriculation for a year of serious training and racing in New Hampshire. She has often supplemented European travels with summer training sessions in the mountains there. Now, she is a sophomore at Dartmouth and still skiing.

One of the inspiring things about watching the progress of the Grotzes is their family spirit and the warm support they give each other. They do it with humor, too. As the most recent blizzard approached, Stefan spoke resignedly about how it was going to keep him too busy to work. "Snow is my Achilles heel," he sighed. "I hold office hours at Butternut."

— David P. McAllester



Then the pair followed Paw to Manhasset
Where he still held the cash as an asset;
But Nan and the man
Stole the money and ran,
And as for the bucket, Manhasset.



Eleanor Kimberley was out taking squirrel pictures this winter and got shots of all four of our native species: (clockwise from upper left) flying, grey, red and chipmunk.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

To the Southernmost Point in the U.S.

I was around Orlando, Florida for a week, seeing the refrigerator man, asking about a brake job for the camper, having a new fan put in the Toyota. I visited Vi in St. Cloud and drove over to Titusville to spend a night with friends of my son, Toni and George. Then I headed south.

I had seen pictures on TV, but when you drive into Homestead, the devastation blows your mind! A bathtub in a living room. Car fender in an upstairs bedroom. No roofs at all. It looked like a bombed out city in wartime.

The thing that remains most vivid in my mind — every half mile or so along the road are great piles of garbage. No sorting here: iron pipes, stoves, refrigerators full of old food, mattresses, roof tiles, broken doors, cabinets. Where can they put all this garbage? How much will it cost? Who will pay? When I came through Homestead two months later, the garbage piles were still there.

You know it when you're in the Florida Keys: There is ocean on both sides of the road. The weather is balmy, and the people are so laid back. Not only the bartenders, but even the cops wear cutoffs. I feel at home.

I settled in my little home on Sugarloaf Key. When you live on an island, the sea, and nothing but the sea, is all important. You listen to the weather on the Key West TV channel. If the van next door hasn't left by 6:00 a.m. (they're fishermen), you know the waves are five feet high inside the reef and nine outside, so you don't take your tiny inflatable boat out today. When the wind comes from the north, you wind your awning up. If there's a serious storm, like a hurricane, coming, there is no way to get out of the Keys: Planes are full, forget your boat, and the two-lane highway to the mainland is clogged. You wait and pray. I still love the place!

It's probably more difficult to wring any Yuletide cheer from the season if you're not accustomed to Caribbean Decembers, where the smell of burning charcoal is far more common than that of roasting chestnuts, and Santa wears cutoffs. This is my eleventh Christmas here. My first took place in weather almost like this.

During the holidays, cruise ships berth in the harbor of the southernmost city, Key West. Some days, 3000 extra people roam the streets, eating, shopping in

intriguing shops.

The Keys are in the news every day: Haitian man faces jail for re-entering the U.S.; Cuban pilot could face prosecution for diverting an airliner with 53 people aboard; pilot swoops down in Cuba and picks up wife and children, carrying them to freedom; third body washes up from ill-fated Cuban plane that crashed off the Keys; nineteen people, all related, steal a Cuban fishing boat and make it to the Keys; four saved after boat swamped; marble firm head injured in boat explosion; body of fishing boat captain found at sea, murder charges filed.

Coast Guard patrols picked up 2,549 Cubans from boats and rafts in 1992. Cuba lies only 90 miles to the south, and even in the rough winter waters, there is a steady stream across the Florida Straits. Several rafters to the Keys report that friends have washed off their innertube boats to death in the choppy waters.

As tourists poured into Key West Airport to join the island-wide New Year's party, four Cuban refugees really had something to celebrate. The crew of Brothers to the Rescue's plane spotted their inflatable boat and radioed the Coast Guard. After a five-day voyage, the four Cubans were hoisted from the sea and flown to the airport. Sunburned and dehydrated, the Cubans flashed thumbs-up and victory signs as they rode wheelchairs through the crowded airport.

Even more dramatic may be the tide of Haitians waiting to wash onto our shores. Florida immigration is a cliffhanger!

— Joan Woodard Reed





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HELEN L. SHAW

Helen Louise Shaw, 89, of Tyringham Road died March 19 at Willowood Nursing Home, where she had been a patient for a month.

She was born in Great Barrington on April 12, 1903, the daughter of Orlando C. and Helen Higley Bidwell, and was a graduate of Wellesley College.

Mrs. Shaw taught physical education at Boston University for ten years before developing the elementary physical education program for the newly formed Southern Berkshire Regional School District in the mid-1950s. She retired from the schools in 1968 as a teacher in the elementary physical education department.

She was a former member of the Monterey Board of Appeals and was also active in the Great Barrington Camera Club and taught swimming for many years. She was a proponent of animal rights, wildlife preservation and conservation.

Her husband, George Shaw, died in 1983.

She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Sue Kaplan of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Mrs. Judith Hayes of Monterey; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to either the Monterey United Church of Christ or the National Wildlife Association through the Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Something funny happened in the Democratic caucus on the way to the ballot. Everybody got angry!

A majority of Democrats present wanted the nomination for Selectman to go to Stefan Grotz, a registered independent, rather than incumbent Bill Bohn, a registered Democrat, who has been named by the nominating committee. But Chairman Georgiana O'Connell ruled that the party could not nominate as independent as long as there was a Democrat who wanted to run. The caucus then refused to nominate Bill Bohn.

A few days later, the party Chairman ruled that the Democrats would not name a candidate for Selectman. Fortunately, we rejected Democrats will still have a chance to join our Republican and independent friends in voting for our preferred candidate, Stefan Grotz on May 1.

We will also have a chance to do away with the system of party caucuses in nominating candidates for town office. On the ballot will be a question asking that we substitute a town caucus for the present absurd system.

— Fred Lancome

To the Editor:

Just a reminder: This May, Monterey voters will have a choice. The voters could choose to put more restrictions on Lake Garfield than the State of Massachusetts deems necessary. OR, they could vote NO and rely on current Massachusetts boating and safety and environmental rules and regulations.

The choice will be yours.

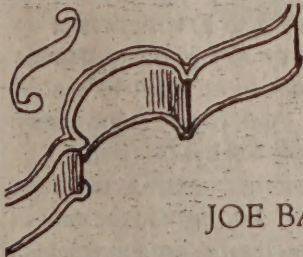
— The Committee for the Preservation of Monterey
Voters Rights

To the Editor:

To the taxpayers of Monterey: The Lake Garfield Association has proposed two new restrictions on Lake Garfield which are now coming up for a vote at our May annual town meeting. The first is to restrict motorcraft in the channel to not more than 10 mph. The second is to prohibit skiing in the "small lake." These new restrictions shall then be enforced with finds by local or state law officers or a harbor master.

A harbor master has been suggested by the Lake Garfield Association to enforce these new restrictions. The Selectmen have the power to appoint a harbor master, and seem to embrace this suggestion. If a harbor master is appointed: Is this to be a voluntary position? If so, whose boat is to be used? If the harbor master's boat is used, who will pay the excise tax, gas and registration? The Taxpayers? If it is a salaried position: How much? Will the town buy a boat? Gas, oil and registration? What about liability insurance for the harbor master and/or the boat? Is the Lake Garfield Association offering to pay any expenses incurred by the Town of Monterey?

— James Garfield Deloy



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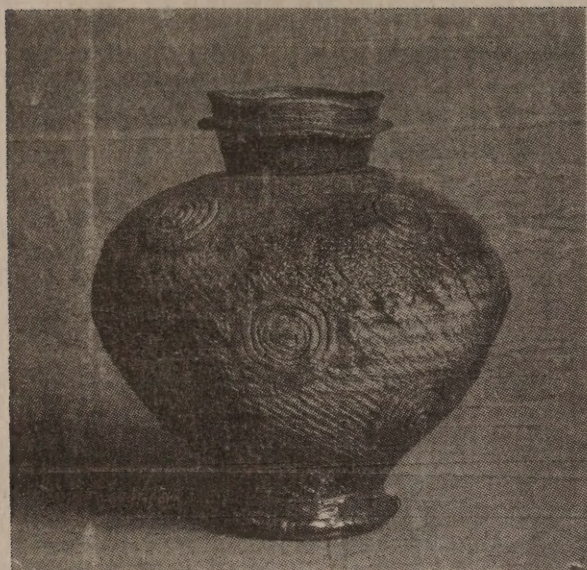
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PERSONAL NOTES



Hope many of you tuned in on March 14 to Charles Kurault's *Sunday Morning* program, which featured a segment on **Michael Marcus** and his Joyous Spring Pottery. Included was the 1992 firing of the Bizen climbing kiln as well as Michael's recent exhibition in Nagoya, Japan, and live and in color, Michael working the clay with his feet. It was a beautifully done tribute to a well-deserving Monterey artist — congratulations, Michael!

Don't forget the Monterey Roadside Cleanup! Because of all the snow, the date has been changed to April 24, from 9:00 a.m.-noon. The goal is to clean up all the main roads in town. Lots of people power is needed, kid and grown-up alike, for the spiff up to be a widespread success. Please call **Jack or Lois Ryder** at 528-2548 to volunteer, ASAP! Your community spirit will be rewarded with lunch and refreshment served in Greene Park after the cleanup. Mark those calendars, and please plan to participate in this worthwhile event.

Our hats off to **Virgil Stucker**, newly named Executive Vice President of the Berkshire-Taconic Foundation, a vehicle for local charitable organizations headquartered in Salisbury, Connecticut. Virgil, former assistant executive at Gould Farm, also served on the finance and affordable housing committees in Monterey before accepting a position as president of a therapeutic community in Michigan. We're glad to hear that Virgil and his family will be returning to the Berkshires, albeit Great Barrington. Welcome back, Stuckers!

Congratulations to **Lew Scheffey**, who was recently appointed chairman of the board of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. In making the announcement, George Wislocki, president of the Council, said that Lew brings to the job "a lot of management skills, a commitment to land preservation and maybe more important, a perceptive view of what the Berkshires should be in the 21st century."

Best of luck to **Michelle Grotz**, who, after a long fall term studying four lab sciences at once and then a long drive to Texas, has begun her midwifery apprenticeship at Maternidad La Luz in El Paso. Michelle will be studying and working at the clinic through August. Last report, she had assisted in four deliveries during her first week and was even catching on to Spanish medical lingo. Come September, Michelle promises to have a clearer idea of whether to pursue midwifery, or medical school, or law school, or...

And, welcome back to **Tasha Grotz**, who has returned from Vail, Colorado, where she spent the winter training and ski racing. Tasha will return to her studies at Dartmouth for the spring term.

Kudos to Monterey students named to area honor rolls: At Mount Everett, in Grade 12, **Christopher Burkhart** and **Michael Ohman** made Honors; in Grade 11, **Bruce Snow** made High Honors and **Leah Bohn** and **Carey Tobin** made Honors; in Grade 9, **Jason Tanner** made Honors; in Grade 8, **Shaylan Burkhart**, **Morgan Clawson** and **William Conklin** made High Honors and **Noah Wright** made Honors; and in Grade 7, **Eoin Higgins**, **Bethany Sadlowski** and **Jeremy Vallianos** all made Honors. At Monument Mountain, in Grade 12, **Marta Makuc** made Honors; in Grade 11, **Erin Sadlowski** and **Meghan Sadlowski** made High Honors; and in Grade 10, **Joshua Aerie** and **Paul Makuc** made High Honors. At Berkshire Country Day School, in Grade 9, **Morgan Schick** made High Honors. Fine job — keep up the great work, all of you!

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Maynard Forbes** and **Wendy Tryon** on April 2, to **Eric Pedersen** on April 4, to **Karl Quisenberry** on April 5, to **Bonnie Cox** on April 8, to **Don Coburn** on April 18, and to **Grace Burke** on April 29. And, Happy Anniversary wishes to **Maynard** and **Gale Forbes** on April 5.

Please continue to share your news items. Just give me a call at 528-4519, or drop them in the mail to me, just Route 23. Your contributions are appreciated!

— Stephanie Grotz

CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the following people for their contributions during the past month:

Mary Spalding
Donna Bartell
Eleanor Knoblock

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CALENDAR

Saturday, April 10 — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults \$5, children \$2 to dance until intermission. Information: 528-9385.

Wednesday, April 14 — Community Dinner. 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Bring a covered dish. For more information, see *Community Dinner News and Local Agriculture Program*, elsewhere in this issue.

Tuesday, April 20 — Free blood pressure clinic. 9:00-10:30 a.m., downstairs at the town hall.

Saturday, April 24 — Monterey Roadside Cleanup. 9:00 a.m.-noon. For more information, or to volunteer, call Jack or Lois Ryder at 528-2548.

Saturday, April 24 — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have some square or contra dance experience. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission \$5. Information: 528-9385.

Thursday, April 29 — Docent training class at The Bidwell House. For more information, call Lisa Simpson at 528-6888.

Saturday, May 1 — Annual town meeting. 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey firehouse.

Sunday, May 2 — Monterey Round Table meeting. 3:00 p.m. in the church basement.

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Tiles. Carpentry. Plastering

Excellent References

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We invite your submissions of news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. All editorial material should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For questions about editorial material, call the editor at 528-3128.

ADVERTISING

One-inch ad (1" x 3") \$ 2.50
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Drawings in this issue by Cora Baker, Sudi Baker, Ben Laux and Bonner McAllester.

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